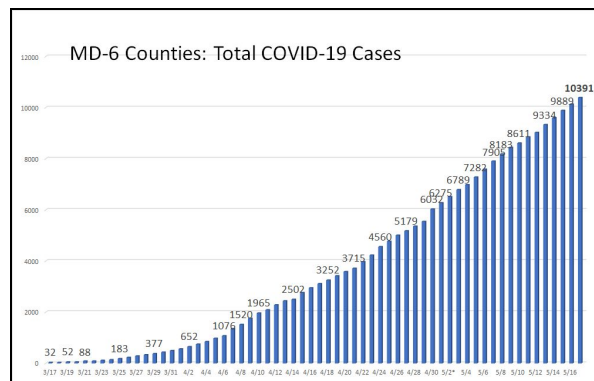
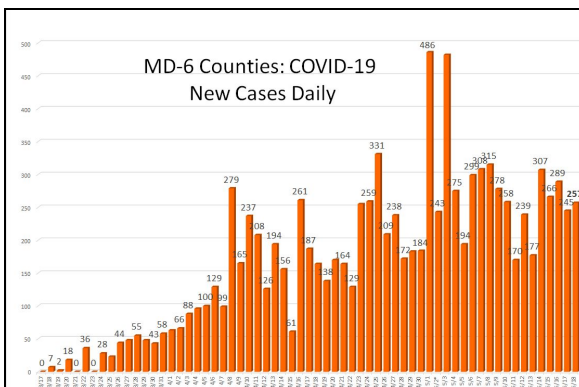
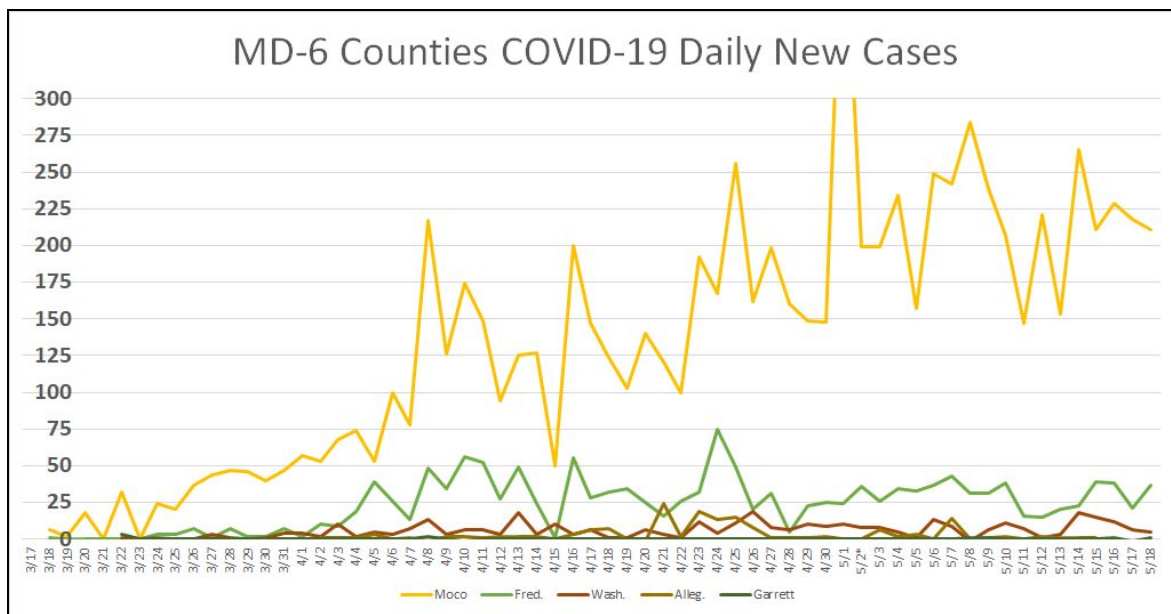
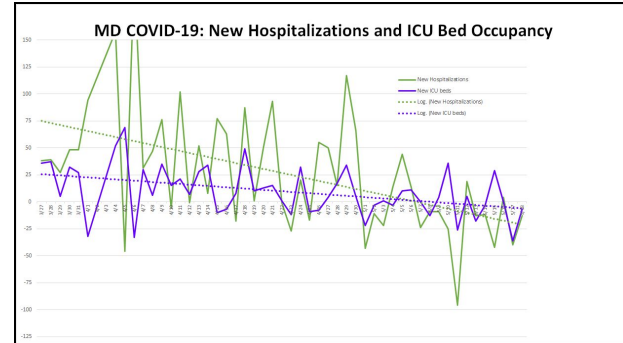
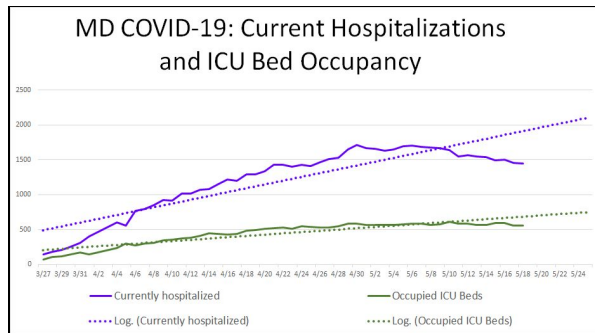


## Daily Coronavirus Update: May 18 Congressman David Trone (MD6)

### Stats @ 10 AM

With increased testing capacity coming online in Maryland, Governor Larry Hogan is tracking trends in **hospitalizations** and **ICU beds** for indicators on when to proceed with steps to fully reopen the state. Gov Hogan has given local governments flexibility for reopening decisions, based on local conditions.



Total cases reported: Moco 8,417, Fred. 1,460, Wash. 343, Alleg. 164, Garrett 7. MD: 39,762, MD deaths: 1,903.

As of 5PM, the U.S. had recorded 1,504,244 confirmed cases and 90,312 deaths due to Coronavirus ([JHU](#)).

## Federal Updates

- Moderna reported today that its **COVID-19 vaccine candidate** currently in phase one trials to evaluate safety is showing **promising results for both safety and efficacy**. The Cambridge MA-based company reported that 45 volunteers in the phase 1 trial were divided into three groups, with each group getting a different vaccine dose. All groups got an initial shot, followed by a booster shot a month later. Participants showed only modest side-effects, including redness at the injection site, headache, fever and flu-like symptoms. None lasted more than a day, and there were no serious side-effects reported. The vaccine also showed the ability to induce coronavirus antibodies at all dose levels. The vaccine is being developed in collaboration with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The Food and Drug Administration has green-lighted a Phase II study, with an additional 600 volunteers — half older than 55 — to provide additional immunogenicity data. The company hopes by July to begin a Phase III study, aimed at showing that the vaccine can actually prevent disease. ([As reported by NPR.org](#))

## Maryland Updates

- Since Gov. Larry Hogan announced that the state could begin moving into Stage One of the “Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery,” last Friday @ 5 PM, many counties, including Garrett and Allegany, have started reopening retail businesses, manufacturing, houses of worship and some personal services. Others, like Frederick, have relaxed some restrictions but have not fully embraced Stage 1 levels of activity. A few, including Montgomery, are still under full restrictions to control the spread of COVID-19. The governor is allowing local officials to make these decisions based on local conditions. A [color-coded map](#) on the governor’s website provides county-by-county status.

## District Updates

- Montgomery County
  - a. Monday morning the Maryland Department of Health reported 8,417 cases of COVID-19 in Montgomery County, which is an increase of 211 cases from the 8,206 reported Sunday. According to the health department, 442 county residents have died from COVID-19. This is an increase of five deaths since Sunday. The number of probable deaths is 38. There have been 1,936 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 294 deaths in Montgomery County nursing homes and assisted living facilities according to the Maryland Department of Health numbers released Wednesday, May 13. The numbers include staff and residents of the facilities. The health department releases new information on Wednesdays.
  - b. The Montgomery County Council voted unanimously to approve County Executive Marc Elrich’s executive order to extend Gov. Larry Hogan’s Stay at Home order. On May 6, Hogan amended his March 30 Stay at Home executive order to allow activities like golf and tennis. The amended order also opened state beaches and parks, and allows elective medical procedures at the discretion of local hospitals and medical providers. On Wednesday, Hogan announced that he would lift the Stay at Home order effective 5 p.m. on Friday, and begin Stage One of Maryland’s reopening. Stage One includes retail stores opening to 50 percent capacity and resumption of religious services at 50 percent capacity if indoors among other things. However, Hogan made clear that he is letting county leaders make decisions about their reopening timeline, separate from the state’s timeline. Elrich says Montgomery County is not ready for Stage One, and on Friday he signed an executive order to extend Hogan’s amended May 6 order.
  - c. Since early April Metro ‘strongly recommended’ that riders wear face coverings, however starting on Monday it will be required. In an effort to help slow the spread of COVID-19, face coverings will be mandatory on Metro trains, buses, stations, and MetroAccess vehicles. Metro General Manager Paul Wiedefeld says this is a necessary step towards plans for an eventual recovery. “Every person who wears a face covering on Metro is helping to keep others safe, and this is especially important for

Metro's frontline employees. In the age of Covid-19, we all share a responsibility for frontline worker safety, and that's what this is all about," Wiedefeld said. According to CDC guidelines, face coverings include scarves, bandanas, or homemade coverings that can be made from t-shirts or other materials.

- Frederick County

- a. There are now 1,477 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Frederick County, an increase of 26 cases from Saturday to Sunday. One death was confirmed between Saturday and Sunday, bringing the death toll to 90, according to the Frederick County Health Department. The person was a woman in her 80s, according to an email from Rissah Watkins, director of planning, assessment and communications for the Frederick County Health Department. In the county, 715 people have been released from isolation.
- b. County Executive Jan Gardner (D) issued an executive order Thursday which allows for a partial re-opening of some businesses countywide beginning Friday at 5 p.m. Gardner said at a news briefing Thursday she heard from many business owners and local municipal leaders who were split on whether to extend the stay-at-home order, versus those who wanted to reopen as many businesses as possible. "I appreciate that this is not what everyone will like," Gardner said. "Some people wanted me to keep the county completely shut down, and others wanted to see our business activities open faster ... I own this decision, I'll be responsible for this decision."

- Washington County

- a. Washington County recorded two more COVID-19 cases Sunday for a total of 338, according to the Maryland Department of Health. The health agency did not have updated information for coronavirus deaths in the county. The number had been 12 as of Saturday. Cases at two long-term care facilities in the county remained unchanged Sunday. Sterling Health Care South Mountain has recorded four staff cases, 14 resident cases and four resident deaths. Homewood Hilltop in Williamsport has seen one staff case, five resident cases and two resident deaths.
- b. In a year when the COVID-19 pandemic took many traditions from high school seniors, North Hagerstown High School seniors were celebrated Saturday. If not for the coronavirus, it would have been the night of the senior prom Saturday. Instead, the soon-to-be graduates were part of a Senior Ride, organized by parents. The Class of 2020 seniors were celebrated, as they rolled through North Hagerstown in their decorated cars and trucks. Vehicles were decked out in balloons and 2020 signs, with students cheering and waving.
- c. The Hagerstown Police Department will apply for a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program grant to help purchase personal protective equipment and pay for overtime for officers. The money would come through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program, which supports a broad range of state and local criminal justice initiatives in Maryland. Police Chief Paul Kifer said a formula shows the grant could allocate the department \$60,473. The grant application is due May 29.
- d. As county officials presented their proposed 2021 fiscal year budget Thursday night in a virtual hearing, they emphasized the dire situation the county finds itself in as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$235.9 million general fund budget was developed based on anticipated revenue shortfalls, including a \$14.5 million reduction in income tax revenues, because of the pandemic. Sara Greaves, the county's chief financial officer, said during the hearing that personal and business income in the county is expected to be hard hit because of COVID-19 restrictions. "This pandemic has and will continue to have a significant impact on the county," Greaves said. Greaves said gaming revenue to the county is also expected to decline by \$220,000. Hotel-tax revenue will be down by about \$260,000, she said.

- Allegany County

- a. Two more Allegany County residents have died from complications of COVID-19, health officials said Sunday, as the county death toll grew to 16. The Allegany County Health Department said the latest victims were both women — a community member and a resident of the Cumberland Healthcare

Center. No other information about the victims were released. Health officials also announced five new cases over the weekend — two Saturday and three Sunday — bringing the case count 162.

- b. Mindy Wilkinson says she's just trying to fill a need. The owner of She's So Pretty, a clothing alteration store, is working on designs for face masks with clear fronts that can be used within the hearing impaired community for reading lips while staying safe. "I like the challenge of coming up with something that's washable and wearable and still functions," Wilkinson said. "The hearing impaired community, if they can get ahold of those face shields, that would be ideal, but I don't think they're available right now." The idea started as a request from Wilkinson's friend in Virginia who is a Girl Scout leader with multiple hearing impaired girls in her troop.

- Garrett County

- a. Garrett County officials on Thursday lifted the order that closed vacation rental properties, but with a number of restrictions and warnings. Following Gov. Larry Hogan's Wednesday announcement of the first phase of his reopening plan, the county commissioners voted to amend their state of emergency declaration to allow the use of rental units effective immediately. County Health Officer Bob Stephens also rescinded his March order on the rental units.
- b. Garrett County Public Schools has released information in regard to graduation for both Northern and Southern High schools. Graduation for both schools will be a mix of "virtual" and in person. A montage of videos including the valedictorian and salutatorian speeches, as well as the class president's speech, will be put together with video of students walking across the stage in their caps and gowns and receiving their diploma from the superintendent to create the "virtual ceremony." In addition to the virtual ceremony, plans are underway to hold an in-person celebration on July 25 as well. However, the in-person celebration may only take place if the governor moves Maryland into Stage 3 of recovery no later than July 1. If the governor does not move to Stage 3 by July 11, the in-person events will be cancelled.
- c. In its efforts to provide reliable internet access throughout the county for instructional purposes, Garrett County Schools announced the addition of six new hotspot locations. The following locations have agreed to allow students, parents, and staff to access GCPS installed wifi from their parking lots.